# The End Times!! ARE YOU CURIOUS?

Adapted from Clarence Larkin's books:

"Rightly Dividing the Truth" & "God's Plan and Purpose for the Ages"

(see: www.larkinestates.com)

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How many people here are curious? Do you like to know what is going to happen in the future?

When you read a book, do you look ahead to see what the final outcome is going to be?

Maybe some of you here have in the past gone to fortunetellers to see what the future holds for you.

Maybe you've wanted to know what kind of job you were going to get, or who your husband or wife was going to be, or if your life would be successful or not.

As Christians we know that we are not to seek out fortunetellers, spiritists, or astrologers.

Lev.19:26 tells us, "Do not <u>practice</u> divination or sorcery."

Then Lev.19:31 says, "Do not <u>turn to</u> mediums or <u>seek out</u> spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God."

You see in Isaiah 44:24-26 God said,

"This is what the Lord says – your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the Lord, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense, who carries out the words of his servants and fulfills the predictions of his messengers."

- God foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners.
- He overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense.
- He carries out the words of his servants and fulfills the predictions of his messengers.

- Let's see Joshua 21:45. The people of Israel had entered the Promised Land.
- Many people think that the Promised Land is heaven but I believe it is for us here and now. It is a "spiritual" condition and not a place.
- The enemies of Israel <u>had lived there</u> but their spiritual condition was ungodly.
- The promised land is a picture of the spiritual man trusting God and entering into the Spirit-filled and Spirit-led life.

God had taken the people out of Egypt (the world), taken them far from the temptations of Egypt (sin), and destroyed the works of Pharaoh in their lives (Satan). This was "Salvation".

He took them across the Red Sea. This is a picture of our baptism with Christ. Not an outer cleansing but being baptized in the name of Christ and "identifying" with Christ. Telling the world that I have left it and am now totally Christ's.

Then God had them go through a desert experience.

They could have arrived in a very short time but the desert experience is something every Christian must go through.

It is a time of learning how much we need God and learning to become dependent on Him.

We all need this desert experience to become prepared to fight the bigger fights God has for us. It is a Christian's bootcamp.

How long we stay in our desert experience depends on our willingness to sanctify ourselves, to obey God, and be willing to die to ourselves and the world.

Then, God took the people across the Jordan River.
This is a picture of entering into the Spirit-filled life.

The Spirit-filled life is where the "real" tests begin.

But God says, "The Lord your God himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua also will cross over ahead of you, as the Lord said". (Deut.31:3).

Not only the Lord your God will be with you but he sent Joshua (a type of Jesus) to go with the people.

Jesus was with them too. You may say that God is up in heaven while I'm down here going through a tough time. But all through the Bible we see God coming to be with His people and this was no better portrayed than when Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us.

After, the Jordan, the people entered the promised land. And we know they conquered kingdoms and in the power of God's Spirit took possession of the land.

Now, look at Joshua 21:45, "Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled."

Joshua 24:13 says, "So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build, and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant."

The Spirit-filled life is a land of plenty. It is God's promise as we continue to walk with Him.

- Are you still curious? Now, you know you will walk through a desert period as a Christian. A time of spiritual boot camp.
- You know that God will call you into the Spirit-filled life of trusting Him, being obedient to Him, and letting Him live His life through you.
- You also know that it is a land of plenty and that "Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled."

- Are you still curious in your life? Why did God give us this "curious" tendency? God has made us curious and it is for a reason.
- The reason is that properly executed, curiosity will cause us to seek God.
- In John chapter 4, Jesus gives us a wonderful example of using curiosity to witness to someone.
- In verse 10 he says, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

- Immediately the woman at the well became "curious" and asked, "Where can you get this living water?"
- Her curiosity had been aroused. Jesus had something special and she was curious how she could obtain this.
- Brothers and sisters, you have "Someone" special and people today are still curious.
- So we see that that curious tendency causes people to seek God.

- The majority of professing Christians admit the fact of the Second Coming of Christ, but they are not agreed as to the "manner" or "time".
- Here are the five theories of Christ's Second Coming:

### 1) "SPIRITUAL" & FULFILLED AT PENTECOST:

- It was not Christ who came at Pentecost but the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit's coming was conditioned on Christ's absence, Jesus said, But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:7).

- If the Holy Spirit is only another manifestation of Christ, then they are identical, and that Nullifies the Trinity.
- The fact is, the whole New Testament was written AFTER PENTECOST, and declares 150 times that the Second Coming of Christ was still FUTURE.
- None of the events predicted as accompanying the Second Coming occurred at Pentecost ("Resurrection of the 'Dead in Christ'", the Translation of the "Living Saints", the "Binding of Satan", etc.)

## 2) "CONVERSION OF THE SINNER" is the Coming of the Lord

- This cannot be, for at conversion, the Sinner comes to Christ, not Christ to the sinner.
- The conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit, and not the work of Christ.
- Yes, there is a spiritual indwelling of Christ, but His Second Coming, like His First Coming is to be an outward, visible, personal coming.

### 3) "DEATH" is the Coming of the Lord

- "Watch, therefore; for you know neither the day or the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh." (Matthew 25:13).
- The context shows that this refers to a future coming of Christ.

- Christ could not come to the earth every time a person dies for two reasons:
- a) a soul passes into eternity every second, and this would necessitate Christ's remaining continuously on earth
- b) Christ is engaged in His High Priestly functions in the Heavenlies, and could not leave them to come to the earth for the souls of the dying.

- The fact is, at death the believer "goes" to Christ. Christ does not come to him.
- Death is always spoken of as a departure. "Absent from the body, present (at home) with the Lord."
   (2 Cor.5:6-8).
- Death is an enemy (2 Cor.15:26,55), holds us in the grave, robs the body of its attractiveness, is the "Wages of Sin", and the result of God's wrath.

- The Second Coming is a manifestation of His love.
   Christ is the "Prince of Life". There's no death where He is.
- Death flees at Christ's coming.
- When He was on Earth nothing could remain dead in His presence.
- Christ is the "Resurrection and the Life". When He comes He will change our vile body to be like His Glorious Body (Phil.3:20-21).

# 4) DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM in 70 AD by Romans is the Coming of the Lord

• The Lord was not present at the destruction at Jerusalem. It was destroyed by Roman soldiers, and none of the things that are to occur at the "Second Coming" occurred at the destruction of Jerusalem. Such as the resurrection of the dead, the translation of the Living Saints, and the physical changes that are to occur at Jerusalem and in the land of Palestine at Christ's coming. (Zech.4:4-11; Ezek.47:1-12).

- Christ's purpose in coming back is not to destroy Jerusalem, but to RESTORE IT.
- It must be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the "Times of the Gentiles" are fulfilled,
- "They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

- At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:240-28)
- The Book of Revelation, written 26 years after the destruction of Jerusalem, speaks of the Second Coming of Christ as still FUTURE.

- 5) "DIFFUSION OF CHRISTIANITY" is the Second Coming of Christ
- This can't be true for the "Diffusion of Christianity" is gradual, whereas the Scriptures declare that the "Return of the Lord" shall be SUDDEN and UNEXPECTED, as a "Thief in the Night."
- "For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (Matthew 24:27)

- "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. (Matthew 24:36)
- "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. (Matthew 24:42)
- So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. (Matt. 24:44)

- for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. (1 Thess. 5:2)
- Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. (Rev.3:3).
- It is a process (Diffusion of Christianity), while the Scriptures speak of Christ's return as an EVENT.

 The Diffusion of Christianity brings SALVATION to the wicked, whereas the "Return of the Lord" is said to bring not salvation BUT SUDDEN DESTRUCTION.

for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. (1 Thess.5:2-3)

and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. (2 Thess.1:7-10).

#### THE END TIMES

- So we have talked about the different theories of the end times.
- Now we are going to go through the Book of Revelation and study what many Christians believe to be the truth of the end time.
- Remember, NEVER FOLLOW a teaching but the TEACHER, JESUS CHRIST!!
- NEVER FOLLOW a teacher but the TEACHER, JESUS CHRIST!!
- Christian, you have the Holy Spirit Who promises to lead you into ALL TRUTH!!

- Are you still a little bit curious?
- Well, today we are going to see God's truth.
   Not an astrologist, spiritist, or soothsayer,
   but God's truth about the "end times".
- So let's do an "overview" of the Book of Revelation. Let's find out how everything is going to end.
- I would pray that you would ask God to speak to you, to lead you into proper teachings, and that you will be open to His Word today.

# The revelation of Jesus Christ, (1:1)

- Isn't it wonderful that God has revealed the truth to us through His Living Word, Jesus Christ?
- This is not the revelation of a man but of God.

# which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. (1:1)

- One day is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as a day to God.
- The end times are nearer now than ever before.

He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. (1:1b-2)

- God has made these things known.
- This is a "Christophany": Christ coming as an angel.
- John was with Jesus daily for 3 years.
- John knew Jesus intimately, loved Him, and <u>knew the "voice of Jesus".</u>

- Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, (1:3)
- If you read this book you will be blessed that is a PROMISE.
- We must believe the promise of God by faith – we will be blessed!!

# and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, (1:3)

- We are blessed if we "hear it".
- We are blessed if we "take it to heart".

because the time is near. (1:3)

Jesus is coming soon!! Hallelujah!!

WARNING: I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. (Rev.22:18)

- The Mormons add the Book of Mormon.
- The Jehovah Witnesses add their own version of the Bible.
- The Catholics add "and the traditions of the church".
- The Liberals don't allow the Bible to speak for itself.
- We are not to add to this book but let God's Word stand as it is
  - it is God's Word He has "kept & sustained it".

- And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. (Rev.22:19)
- And we are not to take away from this book.
   We are not to "lessen" it.

# John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: (1:4)

- John is also writing to the CHURCH to us!!
- The church is an "living, moving, breathing organism" not an "organization.

# Grace and peace to you (1:4)

- What a wonderful blessing to US!
- Now, we will see this blessing is from the FATHER, SON, HOLY SPIRIT through the Apostle John to US!!

from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, (1:4)

- Here we see the FATHER.
- and from the seven spirits before his throne, (1:4)
- Here we see the HOLY SPIRIT. A better interpretation is the SEVENFOLD SPIRIT – seven being perfection & completion!!

and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. (1:5)

Here we see JESUS CHRIST.

Let's look at Christ' IDENTITY!!

#### **Faithful Witness**

- as Prophet (Deut.18:15,18), Jesus is God's Word.
- Firstborn from the Dead
- as Priest, Jesus is God's Lamb.
- Ruler of the Kings Of The Earth
- as King, Jesus is God's Lion.

Here we see Christ's threefold ministry

– PROPHET – PRIEST – KING -

To him who <u>loves us</u> and <u>has freed us</u> from our sins by his blood, and <u>has made us to be a kingdom and priests</u> to serve his God and Father (1:5b-6)

#### HIS INVOLVEMENT

- He Freed Us
- He Loved Us
- He Made Us (kings and priests)
- captured OT kings were sometimes shown "grace." They would be brought to sit at the King's table – DEATH DESERVED BUT GRACE GIVEN

to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. (1:6)

LET'S GIVE JESUS THE GLORY AND POWER FOR EVER AND EVER! AMEN!

(see Colossians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 15:20)

# Look, he is coming with the clouds,

 John dramatically announces the one event above all others that "must soon take place" (1:1), that is, the "coming" of Jesus (see Rev.1:4,8) (slide #56)

- Jesus himself will repeat His coming several times in John's visions ("I am coming" or "I will come"), more as warning/threat than a promise (see: 2:5,16; 3:3,11; 16:15; 22:7,12).
- At the end of the book, John has made his peace with Christ's coming.
- Jesus says, "Yes, I am coming soon" and John answers, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus" (22:20).
- HAVE YOU MADE PEACE WITH CHRIST'S COMING?

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:9-11)

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. (Daniel 7:13a)

- and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. (Rev.1:7)
- "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. (Zechariah 12:10)

- "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Rev.1:8)
- Christian's hope is based on verse 8, where the Lord God becomes the Speaker: I am the Alpha and the Omega . . . who is, and who was, and who is to come--echoing and affirming the letter's opening words, Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come (1:4).

- Only twice in Revelation does God speak directly (the other 21:5-8).
- Both times it is with the self-identification
   "I am the Alpha and the Omega".
- THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE IS COMING.
- Is that OK? Are you ready?

- I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. (Rev. 1:9)
- John was put on this island because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.
- Even in those difficult circumstances, God spoke through John

- On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea." (1:10-11)
- There were other churches but these seem to signify a different time period of the churches.
- Many believe these churches represent different times of the Christian church after Pentecost up until now.

- I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, (1:12)
- seven lampstands the seven churches (1:20)

and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. (1:13)

here we see Jesus!!!

His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, (1:14)

Head and hair – Ancient of Days in Daniel
 7:9. From all eternity He is God!!

and his eyes were like blazing fire. (1:14)

 Eyes – First coming they were gentle, loving eyes. Now eyes of a JUDGE!

His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, (1:15)

- Feet He will crush Satan under His feet and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. (1:15)
- Voice "Depart from me" will be heard for those who He doesn't know!!

# In his right hand he held seven stars, (1:16)

- Hand seven stars the angels (messengers) of the seven churches (1:20)
- and out of his mouth came a sharp-double-edge sword. (1:16)
- Mouth Sword of Justice
- His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. (1:16)
- His Face Sun of Righteousness at His return at the Revelation!!

- When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. (1:17)
- After John saw Christ as Judge He was overwhelmed – he feel at Christ's feet as though dead. It is an awesome thing to see Christ as Judge!!
- Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. (1:17)
- But Jesus as Judge knows who are His.
- His calm word to us who know and love Him is "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last." (Isaiah 44:6)

# I am the Living One; (1:18)

Jesus is not dead – He is the Living One.

# I was dead, (1:18)

- He testifies "I WAS DEAD". Some people say Jesus never really died.
- But Jesus testifies that He was dead.

# and behold I am alive for ever and ever! (1:18)

 Jesus is "ALIVE FOR EVER AND EVER" Death has been swallowed up in victory!! Jesus has conquered death and He is LIFE – Life Eternal – Eternal Life

# And I hold the keys of death and Hades. (1:18)

Jesus is the Just Judge and HAS ALL AUTHORITY!!

"All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me." (Matthew 28:18)

• THE KEY VERSE is Revelation 1:19. This verse tells us the message of Revelation & how the book is set up.

# "Write, therefore, what you have seen, (1:19)

- What John had seen was in Revelation 1:9-20.
- Rev.1:11 says, "Write on the scroll what you see
- What John had seen was Christ as Judge in Rev. 1:9-20.

#### <u>what is now</u> (1:19)

- "What is now" is the "Church Age".
- In Chapters 2-3 John talks about the Church.
- We are living in the glorious age of the Church.
- This started with the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.

- Then, with Cornelius in Acts 10 when the Holy Spirit was given to the Gentiles.
- Peter had the keys. God used Peter to open up the keys to heaven: <u>first</u> at Pentecost and <u>second</u> in Acts Chapter 10 to the Gentiles!!
- The church age will continue until the Rapture when Christ comes back for His church.

(see 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

# and what will take place later. (1:19)

 What will take place later is Chapters 4-22 of Revelation where God shows us the future.

The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. (1:20)

#### **Revelation (Rev.2-3)**

- In John 1:19 we see John was to: Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.
- "What is now" is the Church Age in Rev. 2:1-3:22.
- Jesus had returned to the Father, the Spirit had been sent, and the Church had been birthed.
- John was to write about these 7 churches.

- Let's look at Jesus Speaking & Making Promises to the Seven Churches:
- Ephesus
- These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands:
- To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

### Smyrna

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.

He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.

## Pergamum

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.

To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

## Thyatira

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— 'He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery'— just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star.

### Sardis

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.

## Philadelphia

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.

### Laodicea

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.

To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. (see John 10:33; 1 John 4:4)

- In John 1:19 we see John was to: Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.
- "What is now" is the Church Age in Rev.2:1-3:22.
- Jesus had returned to the Father, the Spirit had been sent, and the Church had been birthed.
- John was to write about these 7 churches.

- These 7 churches are 7 church periods from John's writing of the prophecy in 96 AD up until the end of the Church Age before Jesus comes for his church at the Tribulation.
- These 7 churches are a prophetic look at the different kinds of churches we have had throughout history.

1) Ephesus

 a backslidden church.

 (AD 70-170)

"Return, faithless people; <u>I will cure you of backsliding.</u>" (Jeremiah 3:22)

2) Smyrna
 a persecuted church
 (AD 170-312 – Constantine)

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:10)

3) Pergamos
 a wicked church
 (AD 312-606)

When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways." (Acts 3:26)

4) Thyatira
 a lax church
 (AD 606-1520 – Reformation)

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:8-9)

5) Sardisa dead church

(AD 1520-1750 – Word brought forth but lots to recover)

the God who gives <u>life to the dead</u> and calls things that are not as though they were. (Romans 4:17)

- 6) Philadelphia
   a favored church
   (AD 1750-1900 Revivals)
- O LORD, when you favored me, you made my mountain stand firm; (Psalm 30:7)

7) Laodicea
 a lukewarm church
 (AD 1900 – Christ's return)

Then he got on the bed and lay upon the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out upon him, the boy's body grew warm.

(2 Kings 4:34-35)

### **SUMMARY of the "KEY VERSE" (Rev.1:19)**

In John 1:19 we see John was to:

### Write, therefore, what you have seen,

 This, remember is Revelation 1:9-20 when John sees Jesus as JUDGE.

#### what is now

 This is Revelation Chapters 2 & 3 – the Church Age. This is NOW.

### and what will take place later.

 What will take place later begins in Revelation 4:1 until the end of the Book.

- In Rev.4:1-2, John, a type of the Church, is "caught up" to the throne of God.
- After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."
- At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. (Rev.4:1-2)

- This is a wonderful picture of the Church being caught up to be with the Lord at the Rapture..
- John is a picture of the church, Moses is a picture of OT saints,
  - Elijah is a picture of the raptured.
- We see John here, "caught up".
- "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. (Rev.4:1b-2)

- There are two parts to Christ's second coming.
- Let's look at each part separately:

- The FIRST PART is the Rapture where the church is caught up.
- "For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air." (1 Thess. 4:16-18).

- The "dead saints" will be caught up first and we who are "alive" (the church) will be caught up together with them.
- NOTE: Jesus does not put his feet on the ground here. He "catches us up in to the clouds to meet the Lord in the air."
- While the Church and the "dead saints" are in heaven, on earth it will be the time of Jacob's trouble (the Tribulation)
- "How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it." (Jeremiah 30:7)

- Without getting into the Tribulation it will be a time when Israel will be tried by fire, when the ungodly will go through God's wrath, and a time when most will continue to rebel against God. BUT MANY WILL BE SAVED.
- The Church, though, will be raptured out before and we will escape God's wrath during the Tribulation.
- "and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath." (1 Thess.1:10)
- "For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess.5:9)

The SECOND PART of the Revelation is:

On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. (Zechariah 14:4)

on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. (2 Thess.1:10).

### **Revelation is the Book of SEVENS:**

- 7 Churches 2:1-3:22
- 7 Seals 6:1-8:5
- 7 Trumpets 8:7-11:19
- 7 Personages 12:1-13:18
- 7 Vials 15:1-16:21
- 7 Dooms 17:1-20:15
- 7 New Things 21:1-22:5

Seven sevens!! The perfect and complete number......

- We are now going to skip through Rev.4:3-18:24.
- If a person is born-again, then they're not going to be here for that hell on earth.
- It doesn't mean we don't care. We care. We want our loved ones to get saved out of that. We are motivated / compelled to see they are saved.
- But for some people, they are going to have to go through the Tribulation to realize that they need God.

### **Revelation (SIDE NOTE)**

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FIVE JUDGEMENTS: God deals with 3 people:
    The Jews, Gentiles, and the Church. (1 Cor.10:32)
Believers for sin (John 5:24) (Done at the cross for "It is finished".
  Salvation is by grace not works).
Believers for works (2 Cor.5:10; 1 Cor.3:10-15) (Done after the Rapture;
   before the Wedding of the Lamb in the heavenly realms during
   Tribulation.)
Jews during Tribulation (Matt.24:20-21)
  (The "elect" here are the Jews – Jeremiah 30:7)
The Gentile Nations (Matt.25:31-32)
  (The throne of His glory where Christ comes at Revelation. Christ
  judges the nations on Earth.)
The "Wicked Dead" (Rev.20:11-12)
  (The Great White Throne for the "wicked dead" after the 1000 year
   Millenium reign of Christ.)
```

- Now, in Chapter 19 we begin to see things unfolding.
- In 19:1 we see, "After this". After "what"?
- After the time of God's wrath.
- In Rev.19:1-7 we have the Hallelujah chorus. Something is going to happen. It is time for the Marriage of the Lamb.

- In Rev.19:8-10 we have the Marriage of the Lamb.
- Jesus has been promised to a spotless bride from the "foundations of the world".
- He has patiently waited for His bride.
- The church has been caught up, they have been judged for their works (what they've done good or bad in the body) not for salvation because that was done at the Cross of Jesus Christ.

- In Rev.19:11-21 they are coming back with the bridegroom.
- Jesus had come <u>for</u> them at the Rapture before the Tribulation.
- Now he is coming with them at the Revelation (2<sup>nd</sup> part of His coming).
- "On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south." (Zech.14:4)

And this Jesus is going to "Kick some Butt" at Armageddon and throw the beast and false prophet into the "fiery lake of burning sulphur."

He is also going to save Israel out of the Tribulation as well as others who have not bowed down to Satan.

• In Rev.20:1-6, Jesus sets up his 1,000 year reign on Earth (see Isaiah 11:6-9).

In Rev.20:7-10 we see Satan's doom.

- In Rev.20:11-15, the dead are judged at the Great White Throne Judgment.
- During this time we will have the earth's "renovation by fire" prophesied in 2 Peter 3:7, "By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly man."
- He didn't come to fix the earth but to destroy it by fire that nothing ungodly would remain.

Rev.21:1-Rev.22:21 we see the new heaven and the new earth. We see SEVEN NEW THINGS.

- 1. The New Heaven: (21:1)
  (New atmosphere around the Earth)
- 2. The New Earth (21:1)
  (Prepared for the Jews)
  The MEEK Shall inherit the EARTH
- 3. The New City (21:9-23) (Church returns in the new city John 14:1-3)
- 4. The New Nations (21:24-27)
  (The Nations will walk by its light)

- Rev.21:1-Rev.22:21 we see the new heaven and the new earth. We see SEVEN NEW THINGS.
- 5. The New River (22:1-2a,3)
  (Flows from the throne of God in the New City)
- 6. The New Tree of Life (Rev.22:2b) (For the healing of the nations)
- 7. The New Throne (Rev.22:3-5)
  (Where the New River flows from in the New City)

 We don't know how long this time will be but then comes the GREAT ABDICATION. Christ's work is done as the Son of Man for us. God shall be "All in All".
 (see 1 Cor.15:24-28 on the next slide ......)

## Revelation (Rev.19:1 - 22:21)

Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all. (1 Cor. 15:24-28)

### Revelation (Rev.19:1 – 22:21)

- Then we will have the "OMEGA AGES". Time will cease and the "eternal ages" will begin.
- Eternity is still young.
- We don't know much about this time but I'm curious enough to want to be there.

### Revelation (Rev.19:1 - 22:21)

Rev. 22:6-21: Final Testimony - Warnings

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

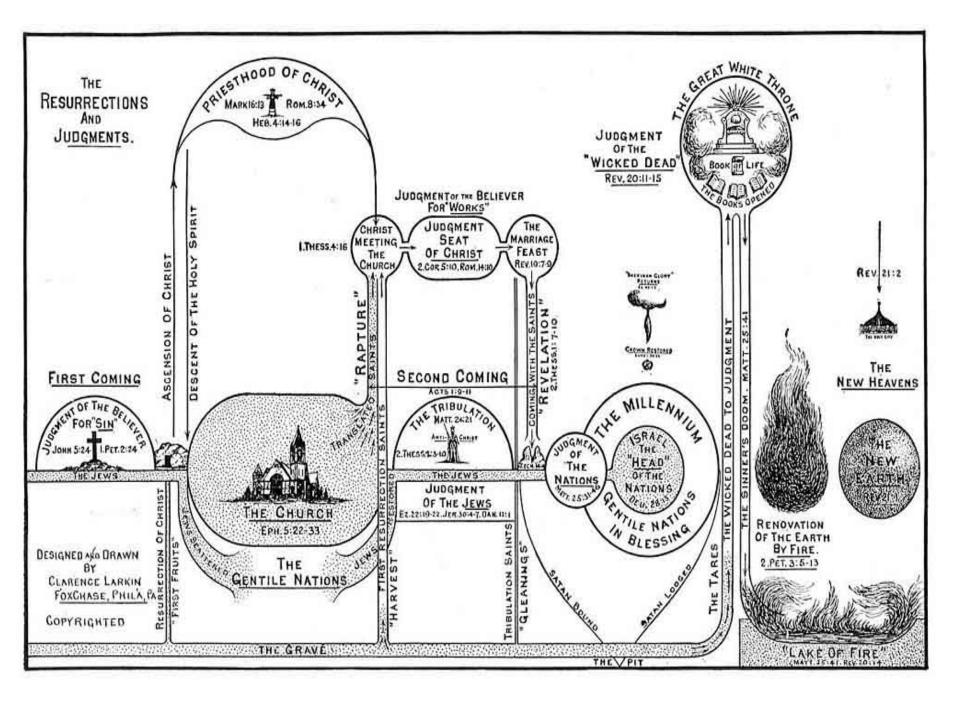
(Rev.22:18-21)

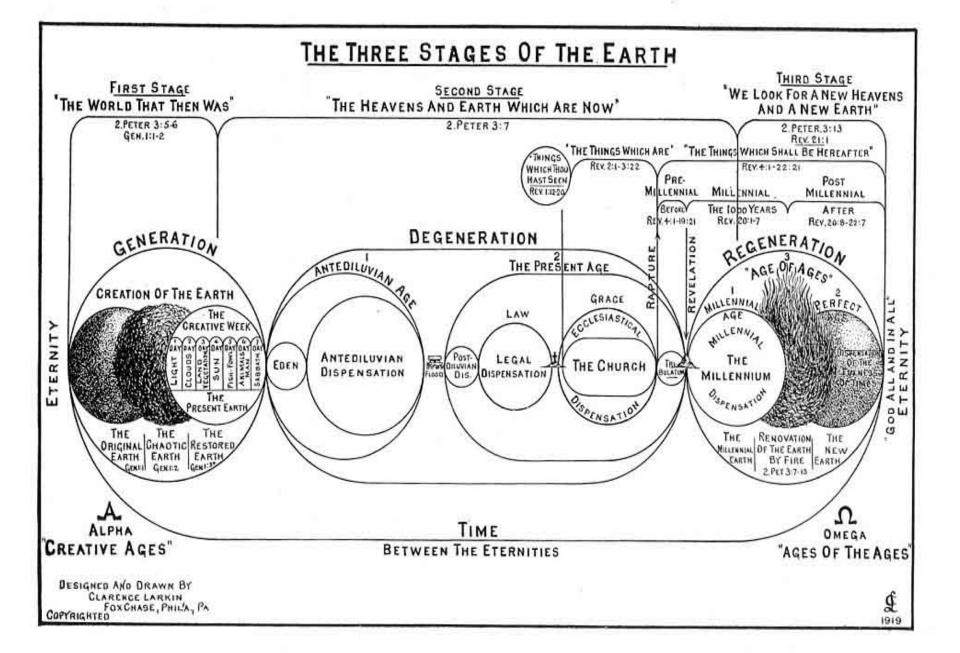
### Revelation (Rev.19:1 - 22:21)

- God in His grace has shown us what is going to happen.
- He's the "Eternal One" He knows.
- Not one of His promises to Israel failed and not one of His promises to His Church will fail.
- All we have to do now is to continue to be obedient, yielded to God, "WATCH & PRAY", and serve Him in the Power of His Holy Spirit

#### THE FOLLOWING CHARTS

- The following two charts are just some of the excellent resources you can find at www.larkinestate.com
- All of his books are excellent especially "Rightly Dividing the Truth", "God's Plan and Purpose for the Ages", and "Revelation". He also has a book of charts that are very useful to visually see how God has moved throughout the ages.





- We started with the question, "Are you curious?"
- We talked about the beauty of God's Word and that we as Christians can know the beginning from the end.
- Now, I want to do a study comparing the first three chapters in the Book of Genesis with the last three chapters in the Book of Revelation.

- Genesis is the Book of Origins showing us the creation of man, man's fall, God's promised Redeemer.
- Genesis gives us types and promises of God's Redemption.
- The Book of Revelation is, in verse one, "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place."

- Many people feel that Revelation is impossible to understand and they go flipping through it.
- Yet the "cults" take people who have little knowledge about the Bible and use this very book to lead them into hell.
- I would pray that you would ask God to speak to you, to lead you into proper teachings, and that you will be open to His Word today.

- In Rev.1:3, it says, "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it because the time is near."
- God has promised to bless you if you just read the words of this prophecy. And a further blessing to those who hear it and take to heart what is written.

- Now the key verse in Revelation is Rev.1:19, "Write therefore, what you have seen, what is now, and what will take place later."
- Today we will see God's original workings with man contrasted with how He is going to restore man in the last three chapters of Revelation.

- In Genesis 1:1 it says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
- In Rev. 21:1 it says, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea."
- This was foretold in Isaiah 65:17, "Behold, I will create new heavens and new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind."

- In 2 Peter 3:7, "By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of godly men."
- Then in 2 Peter 3:13, "But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."
- The earth (present form) is passing away.
   Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will never pass away.

- In Genesis 1:5, "God called the darkness night."
- In Rev.21:25, "for there will be no night there."

- In Gen.1:16, "And God made two great lights the greater light to govern the day (sun) and the lesser light to govern the night (moon). He also made the stars".
- Rev. 21:23, "The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives its light, and the Lamb is its lamp."

- SIDE NOTE: Proofs that God wrote the Pentateuch through Moses
- "Moses then wrote down everything the Lord had said." (Exodus 24:4)
- "When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God". (Exodus 31:18)

- "The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets." (Exodus 32:16)
- "At the Lord's command Moses recorded the stages in their journey." (Numbers 33:2)
- "After Moses finished writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end." (Deut. 31:24)

- LET'S CONTINUE COMPARING Gen.1-3 with Rev.20-22.
- "but you must not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." (Genesis 2:17)
- Death entered the world.
- "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, or crying, or mourning, or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Rev.21:4)
- No more death.

- "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made." (Gen.3:1)
- Satan appears to deceive man.
- "And the devil who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever." (Rev.20:10)
- Satan disappears.

- "When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it." Shown a garden into which defilement entered. (Gen.3:6-7)
- "Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Rev.21:27)
- Shown a city into which defilement will never enter.

- Let's compare these two verses:
- "For everything in the world the <u>cravings of sinful</u> man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does comes not from the Father but from the world." (1 John 2:16)
- "When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it." Shown a garden into which defilement entered. (Gen.3:6-7)

- "Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden." (Gen.3:8-10)
- Walk of God with man interrupted.
- "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God." (Rev.21:3)
- Walk of God with man resumed.

- "Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me and I ate." (Gen.3:13)
- Initial triumph of Satan.
- "And the devil who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever." (Rev.20:10)
- Ultimate triumph of the Lamb.

- "To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." (Gen.3:16)
- Sorrow multiplied.
- "He will wipe ever tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Rev.21:4)
- No more sorrow.

- "To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, "You must not eat of it." "Cursed is the ground because of you, through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life." (Gen.3:17)
- The ground is cursed for our sake to show us our need for God.
- "No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city and his servants will serve him." (Rev.22:3)
- No more curse. Let's look at the curse....

- "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." (Galatians 3:13)
- "you must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse." (Deut.21:23)

- "Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name." (Gen.2:19)
- Man given dominion.
- "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return. (Gen.3:19)
- Man's dominion broken in the fall of the first man, Adam.

- "They will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. (Rev.22:5)
- Man's dominion restored in the rule of the new man Christ.
- "To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. (Rev.1:5b-6)
- We will reign with Him.

- "So the Lord God <u>banished</u> him from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken." (Gen.3:23)
- First paradise closed.
- "On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there." (Rev.21:25)
- New paradise opened.
- "Like water spilled to the ground which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But God does not take away life, instead, he devices ways that a banished person may not remain estranged from him." (2 Samuel 14:14)

- "After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life" (Gen.3:24)
- Access to the tree of life disinherited in Adam.
- "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city." (Rev.22:14)
- Access to the tree of life reinstated in Christ.

- "After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life" (Gen.3:24)
- They were driven from God's presence.
- "They will see his face, and their names will be on their foreheads.(Rev.22:4)
- They shall see His face.

- This is a good book. I used to read other books but the Bible is the BEST for its author is God.
- I don't need any fortune teller, any astrologer, any futuristic spiritist who is filled with lying spirits, familiar spirits and a child of the devil. I have the Word of God.
- I may have been curious about what the end of this book says but what God revealed to Moses in Genesis is right in line with what God revealed to John in Revelation.
- Jesus is Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, and the Beginning and the End.

- In Hebrews 11:1, it says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for..."
- I don't have to have faith in some wishy- washy statement but I can rest my life on the promises in this book.
- Jesus is coming back. He wants to take a bride home with Him. He is preparing a place for us in His Father's house. He will never leave us or forsake us. He is with us to the ends of the world.
- The truths in Revelation are substance truths that we can put our faith in.

Let's turn to Titus 2:11-14,

"For the grace of God that brings salvation <a href="https://www.new.god.">has appeared</a> to all men (justification). It teaches us to say "NO" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives <a href="in-this present age">in this present age</a>, (sanctification) while we wait for the blessed hope — <a href="the glorious appearing">the glorious appearing</a> of our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (glorification).

- Past (at the cross): justification
- Present: sanctification
- Future (at Christ's return): glorification

#### **LET'S PRAY:**

A lot of this teaching has been adapted from Clarence Larkin's books "Rightly Dividing the Truth" and "God's Plan and Purpose for the Ages". These books and others of Clarence Larkin are great Christian resources and can be found at: www.larkinestate.com

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